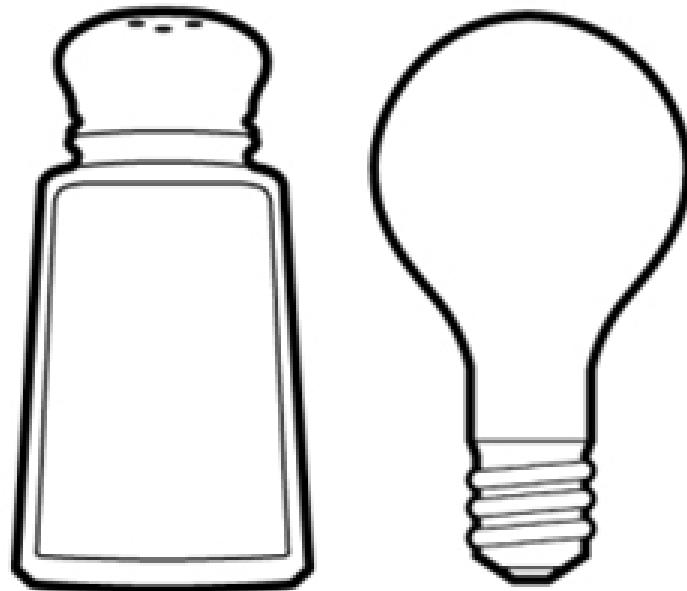


Potsdam United Methodist Church



Be these.

M a t t h e w 5 : 1 3 - 1 6

Salt & Light

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany ~ February 8, 2026

Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Potsdam United Methodist Church

Large print bulletins and listening assistive devices are available, *Please stand, whether in body or in spirit

At Potsdam UMC, all persons are welcome and celebrated regardless of gender, culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic circumstance, age, physical and mental ability, marital status or family structure.

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

As we listen to the prelude, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer

INTROIT Since Jesus Came into My Heart ~ TFWS #2140 VS 1 & 4

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Called to be light,
P: we would carry God's hope into the shadows of the world.
L: Called to be salt,
P: we would enhance the lives of those around us, with joy.
L: Called to live in God's reality,
P: we would welcome everyone as sisters and brothers in faith.
L: Shout out! You are the light of the world!
P: We lift up our voices and sing praises to God!
L: Live your praise with justice and love.
P: We lift up our lives with compassion and mercy.
L: Let us enter God's house as bearers of light.

*HYMN

Gather Us In

TFWS #2236

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: God of justice and mercy, Christ the light and life, enter our lives and this time of worship with your radiant presence.
Bring light to our journey, that we may see your path of righteousness.
Shine in us and through us, that we may be lights of compassion and justice for all the world to see. **AMEN**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

L: When we free ourselves from the bonds of injustice,
P: we are the light of the world!
L: When we undo the yoke of oppression,
P: we are the light of the world!
L: When we share our bread with the hungry,
P: we are the light of the world!
L: When we bring shelter to the homeless,
P: we are the light of the world!
L: When we clothe the naked and give to the poor,
P: we are the light of the world!
L: Let us be light and salt, children of righteousness, Christ Jesus for all the world.

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG...

CHOIR ANTHEM

I Will Call Upon The Lord ~ Arranged by Gary Rodes

... AND THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 58:1-9a

HYMN **This Little Light of Mine** **UMH #585, verse 1**

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 5:13-20

THE MESSAGE **Salt & Light** **Rev. Heidi Chamberlain**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN** **For the Healing of The Nations** **UMH #428**

THE PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (UMH #270)

Responding to God's invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***THE DOXOLOGY** **Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow** **UMH #94**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

L: Gracious God, we thank you for this day—a day blessed with light and joy, a day blessed with hope and abundance.

May these offerings bring light to those who dwell still in darkness, or who cower in the shadow of death.

Bless our lives to your service, in the name of your Son, who calls us to follow him and share your light with others. AMEN

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN** **Let There Be Light** **UMH #440, vss 1 & 6**

***THE BENEDICTION**

L: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' – John 8:12 [NRSV]

Jesus, the light of the world, calls us to follow.

Shout out and don't hold back:

P: **I am the light of the world!**

L: Lift up your voice with joy and praise.

All: Go forth as a beacon of peace, love, and hope in this troubled time! AMEN

POSTLUDE

Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – The Reminder – Anna Murdock © 2011

(Please read Matthew 5:13)

"You are the salt of the earth,"
he said.

What curious words ...
what can he mean?

And then I remembered
the teachings of
my grandmother...

"Anna, always say
'Yes ma'am' and 'No sir.'

'Say I enjoyed my supper;
may I be excused?'

Say 'Please pass the salt.'

And now I understand
the curious words.
He is reminding me
to "Please pass the salt!"

Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from *MinistryMatters.com* ©2017 & 2026

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES

- **The Good Cup:** Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl, Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.
- **Cheery'Os:** Next meeting TBD.
- **Hearts and Hands on a Mission Craft Group:** 1st Thursday of each month, 2-4pm at the Parsonage. The next meeting is March 5th.
- **Super Church - Sunday School:** Feb. 22nd.
- **A Journey Through Grief:** 2nd Thursday of each month, 4-6pm in Fellowship Hall. The next meeting is February 12th.
- **Ash Wednesday Service:** February 18th, 6pm.
- **Lent begins:** Sunday February 22nd.
- **Palm Sunday:** March 29th.
- **Maundy Thursday Service:** April 2nd, 7pm.
- **Good Friday:** Self Directed Meditation and Reflection; the church will be open, and Pastor Heidi will be available 12pm - 3pm.
- **Easter Sunday:** April 5th.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner	Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish
Counters Feb. 8: Christa Carroll, Carrie L. Feb. 15: Debby Nikkari, Robin H. Feb. 22: Tom Ortmyer, Christa C.	Readers Feb. 8: Sharon Hutchinson Feb. 15: Collen Gondo Feb. 22: Tom Ortmyer
Greeters/Ushers Feb. 8: Norm Gardner Feb. 15: Robin Howard, Judy Haer Feb. 22: Nancy Matthews	Fellowship Time Hosts March 1: Carrie Livernois April 5: Robin Howard & Judy H. May 3: Carol Willmert June 7: Sue and John Loope

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain

Musician: Dr. Risa Okina ♦ Choir Director: Anthony Steen

Potsdam United Methodist Church ♦ 26 Main Street, Potsdam NY 13676

Pastor's Office Hours as scheduled with Pastor Heidi Chamberlain

To schedule a pastoral conversation please call: 315-528-4709 (cell) OR the Church office: 315-265-7474

Pastor Heidi: pastorheidi@potsdamumc.org ♦ Church email: info@potsdamumc.org

Website: www.potsdamumc.org ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PotsdamUMCNY>

If you prefer to make your offering electronically you can contribute via **PayPal** - <https://tinyurl.com>